

Hotchkiss Bridge  
Spanning North Fork River  
on County Road 3400  
Hotchkiss Vicinity  
Delta County  
Colorado

HAER No. CO-40

HAER  
COLO,  
15-HOTCH.V,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Hotchkiss Bridge

HAER No. CO-40

LOCATION: Spanning the North Fork River on County Road 3400  
Hotchkiss vicinity, Delta County, Colorado

UTM: 13.264635.4292720  
Quad: Hotchkiss

Date of Construction: 1911

Builder: Pueblo Bridge Company

Present Owner: Delta County  
Delta County Courthouse  
5th and Palmer  
Delta, Colorado 81416

Original Use: Roadway bridge

Present Use: Roadway bridge

Significance: Erected using steel components rolled by the Lackawanna Steel Company, the Hotchkiss Bridge was a locally important crossing of the North Fork River. Built by Colorado's most prolific bridge contractor, the Pueblo Bridge Company, it is one of four pin-connected vehicular Camelback through trusses remaining in the State and, as such, has some technological significance.

Researchers: Clayton Fraser and Carl Hallberg  
Fraserdesign  
Loveland, Colorado  
November 24, 1983

Edited, Typed and Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1988

### Historical Information

Besieged with citizens' petitions for bridges at Paonia, Hotchkiss, Appleton and Roubideau in 1909, the Delta County Board of Commissioners immediately began consideration for a bridge at Roubideau (DL01). Two years later, in October 1911, bids were advertised for the bridge at Paonia (DL02) and the bridge at Hotchkiss. Proposals were received from all of the State's principal bridgebuilders: Charles G. Sheely, M. F. Levy, M. J. Patterson and Fred Bullen's Pueblo Bridge Company. With a bid of \$12,990 for both bridges, the Pueblo Bridge Company was awarded the construction contract. Before the year's end, work had begun. The Hotchkiss Bridge, a medium-span through truss, was completed by August 1912. It remains in use at the same location, with sub- and superstructure unaltered and in good condition.

### Architectural Information

Span number:	1	End/top chord:	2 channels w/cover plate and lacing
Span length:	150'8"	Bottom chord:	2 rectangular eyebars
Overall length:	151'0"	Vertical:	2 angles w/batten plates; 2 channels w/lacing
Overall height:	24'9"	Diagonal:	2 rectangular eyebars; 1 round eyebar w/turnbuckle
Clearance height:	12'8"	Floor decking:	timber deck and stringers w/rolled steel floor beams
Roadway width:	16'1"	Substructure:	steel-cased concrete caissons w/concrete abutments

### Sources of Information

Structure Inventory and Appraisal: DEL3400R-0.5-49. Colorado Department of Highways, Denver, Colorado.

Delta County Commissioners' Minutes: April 20, 1909 (Book 2, p. 405), October 11, 1911 (Book 2, p. 561), October 30, 1911 (Book 2, pp. 569-570), December 19, 1911 (Book 2, p. 570), April 4, 1912 (Book 2, p. 583), July 7, 1912 (Book 2, p. 588), August 8, 1912 (Book 2, p. 590). Delta County Courthouse, Delta, Colorado.

Milo Morse, Delta County Road Foreman. Oral interview with Clayton Fraser November 21, 1983.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Susan Cason, November 17, 1983.